

REMARKS:

In the foregoing amendments, the title of the invention was amended as kindly suggested in the outstanding Office action. Therefore, applicant respectfully requests that the objection to the title of the invention be reconsidered and withdrawn. In addition, claim 4 was amended by changing the expression "the resin wall" to "a wall," as kindly suggested in the outstanding Office action. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that the objection to claim 4 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

The foregoing amendments also inserted the limitations of claim 3 into claim 1. Claims 2 and 3 were canceled and claims 8 and 9 were added to the application. Accordingly, claims 1 and 4-9 are pending in the application for consideration by the examiner. The foregoing amendments were made to clarify what was already implied in applicant's claims and these amendments are not narrowing amendments and were not made for reasons substantially related to patentability presented.

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese patent publication number 63-285257 (JP '257). This rejection appears on pages 2 and 3 of the Official action. Claims 4-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP '257 in view of Japanese patent publication number 2001-193587 of Kino *et al.* (Kino). This rejection appears on pages 4 and 5 of the Official action. Applicant respectfully submits that the teachings of JP '257 and/or Kino do not disclose or suggest the inventions defined in claims 1 and 4-9 within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §102(b) or 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for at least the following reasons.

Present claim 1 requires, *inter alia*, that the permeable port covers positions including at least a central position of the whole length of the air intake duct and a central position of the whole length of the intake air passageway portion. The teachings of JP '257 do not remotely contemplate or suggest these aspects of the presently claimed invention. For example, the opening 14 in Fig. 1 of JP '257 does not cover the central position of the duct, along the lines as required in present claim 1. In addition, one of ordinary skill in the art cannot determine whether or not the opening 14 as proposed in JP '257 is located in the central position of the air intake passageway portion. Thus, applicant respectfully submits that the teachings of JP '257 cannot contemplate or suggest that the permeable port includes positions including at least a central position of the whole length of the air intake duct and a central position of the whole length of the intake air passageway portion, as required in present claim 1. The teachings of Kino do not cure or rectify the aforesaid deficiencies in the teachings of JP '257. For at least these reasons, applicant respectfully submits that the inventions defined in present claim 1 and the claims that depend thereon are patently distinguishable from the teachings of JP '257 and/or Kino.

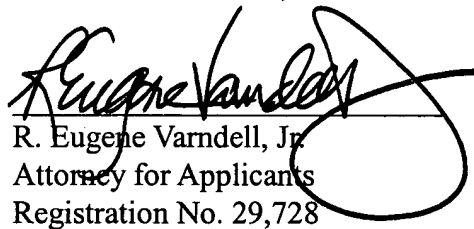
In accordance with the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicant respectfully submits that the presently claimed invention is patently distinguishable from the teachings of JP '257 and/or Kino within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §102 or 35 U.S.C. §103. Therefore, applicant respectfully requests that the examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections of claims 1 and 4-9 over JP '257 and/or Kino as set forth in the outstanding Office action.

Based on the above, a formal allowance of claims 1 and 4-9 is respectfully requested. While it is believed that all the claims in this application are in condition for allowance, should

the examiner have any comments or questions, it is respectfully requested that the undersigned be telephoned at the below listed number to resolve any outstanding issues.

In the event this paper is not timely filed, applicant hereby petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fee therefor, as well as any other fees which become due, may be charged to our deposit account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,  
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